

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to recite the claim of priority to International Patent Application No. PCT/CH2003/000222, filed April 3, 2002.

Claims 1-18 are presented for examination, of which claim 1 is in independent form. Claim 19 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1-18 have been amended to conform with the formalities of the United States Patent Office practice and to eliminate improper multiple dependency.

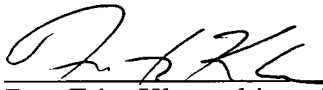
The fees for the claims have been paid on December 17, 2004, prior to the calculation of fees. It is respectfully requested that the above amendments and remarks be entered into the file of the application. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

No additional fee is believed to be due for this amendment. Should any fees be required, such fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Respectfully submitted,

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